



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Nov 17, 2022)

St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery, Manhattan, New York

121 East 10th Street, New York, NY 10003, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 12/23/22.

search@stmarksbowery.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
75	1	1	
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
		5	We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Full family	Yes	Yes	
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)		2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$501-\$1000/year	Yes	Yes	

We are calling a Priest-in-Charge, compensation & benefits according to diocesan guidelines

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

On Three King's Day 2022, St. Mark's celebrated with children from the Henry Street Settlement and many members of the LES community. A procession including an all-women Brazilian drumline marching band worked its way to St. Mark's. There people gathered to enjoy pictures with and petting of a camel, cupcakes and hand crafted gifts for the children from the Henry Street Settlement, and the space of St. Mark's West Yard. St. Mark's raised the funds and supplied the volunteers, space, and organizing of this lively celebration. The day ended with a presentation of "Gifts of the Magi", written by a local playwright and co-directed and organized by St. Mark's music director. The cast included church members and many from the community.

How are your preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

At St Mark's we have a deep and rich past, and we want to make sure we are good stewards of that legacy for future generations. Recently, we made much-needed repairs to our gutters, which will help our historic building continue to be an active hub for our congregation and our arts partners. We are a community mindful of the changing environment and are seeking to build a sustainable church in these shifting times. We are now experienced at meeting remotely and in hybrid settings to meet the needs of our community. The heart of the church though, is the people that make it up. We are committed to growing our congregation, and have welcomed many new families with young children and are engaging our community to build a bright future on our strong past.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

Perhaps the strongest symbol of welcome at St. Mark's is that the church is set up in the round, with the altar in the center. There is no barrier between the clergy and the congregants, and no matter where one sits they are a part of the circle. We use inclusive language for God and sing rather than recite the Creed.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Our informal, open floor plan with circular arrangement of chairs is immediately welcoming to all who enter our Church. Our celebrant's first spoken welcome before a service begins is expressly inclusive, including an explanation that detailed information for participation, to the extent wished, is printed in the pamphlet offered to all who enter. Prior to the Eucharist, announcements include an invitation for each new person attending to introduce themselves followed by enthusiastic applause. Persons are also invited to share important milestones in their lives, followed by a spoken communal prayer and personal blessing by the celebrant. Vestry members and others are attentive to the introductions and the milestones so that newcomers are individually warmly welcomed at the coffee hour following the main service. Both oral announcements at services and weekly parish internet newsletters keep St. Mark's members and newcomers fully informed and encouraged to engage in the numerous programs for lay ministry in the nearby community, the Diocese, and the wider world. Social, economic and racial Justice are strong themes woven into the vocations and avocations of many members.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

St. Mark's has identified "community engagement" as one of its core mission objectives. Given the church's historic place within the community, its ongoing commitments to social justice and change, and the current shifts in neighborhood demographics, the time has appeared ripe for strategic outreach and development. To that end, we hired the Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Jung-Chul Lee as our part-time Associate Rector with a mandate to connect the church to the community, and the community to the church. Through this work, St. Mark's has come to be viewed as a key ally throughout the Lower East Side, especially amongst its marginalized people. We show up at rallies and protests that address community concerns. For example, we were part of a team that helped "Save Casa Adela"—a landmark for the Puerto Rican community—from eviction following the pandemic. We have also partnered with community leaders for celebrations, such as the "Three Kings Day" festival we hosted in January 2022. We have also helped carve out space for conversation between a variety of groups through ministries like "Act, Learn, and Pray" and our "Community Conversations" series.

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

St. Mark's Music Director Jeannine Otis is an American singer, educator who debuted as a vocalist with the Detroit Symphony at age 12. Jeannine's experience and continued work in various areas of the music industry has brought many talents to St. Mark's and sent our choir to many churchwide events. The St. Mark's choir has performed with the Diocesan Choir for The Absalom Jones Ceremony held at The Cathedral of St. John The Divine, The UBE Northeastern Regional Conference and The Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of New York.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

In June of 2020, in the immediate aftermath of the murder of George Floyd and in the height of the COVID pandemic, a group of parishioners began gathering regularly, virtually for "Act, Learn, Pray" a ministry to talk and work through our own anti racism journeys, in the context of our faith. We read and discussed articles, dove into Sacred Ground, the Episcopal church's Anti racism curriculum and phone banked during the 2020 election. Once church re-opened and some of us felt more comfortable with in person gathering, we brought that same energy and enthusiasm to the east village and lower east side community near the church. We engaged and volunteered with Loisaida Center's events, engaged in conversation with Chino Garcia, hosted a Three Kings celebration, and hosted a virtual fireside chat and workout with Coss Marte of ConBody as an exploration of our support for our formerly incarcerated brothers and sisters. Morgan Bass Roper can be contacted a mbroper@gmail.com to discuss.

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

Weekly during the Offertory instead of passing around the collection baskets members of the congregation are invited to place their offerings in the plate while joining the circle for the Eucharist. In addition to the offerings of bread and wine we also bring up food donations for the community at the same time. During the formal Stewardship Season members of the congregation are asked to share their experience and reason for financially contributing to St. Mark's. It is moving to hear directly from one another and prompts self-reflection. Something that is always celebrated at St. Mark's are the strengths and abilities of each member and how we can all lead together to support St. Mark's and our greater neighborhood community. Out of this have grown many outreach programs.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

St. Mark's was founded on land "sold" (for \$1) by Peter Stuyvesant's family to the Episcopal Church. St. Mark's is home to several arts organizations including Dance Space and the Poetry Project. And St. Mark's is located in the now very diverse community of the Lower East Side / East Village. Many people claim St. Mark's as their home for many reasons. This has and does lead to conflict over everything from acceptance of the history of St. Mark's, including very prominently its ties to slavery, to use of space. We try to provide the space for open and honest communication through discussions after church both within our congregation and extending the invitation to our wider community. Of course, this often leads to disagreement. But to truly practice radical acceptance, a core characteristic of St. Mark's, means to also accept differences and work to learning from each other.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

St. Mark's continues to work through their past relationship to slavery and the continuation of racism in our society and, frankly, in our church. We continue to have open dialogue and identify ways we can, at a minimum, acknowledge both our history and our present. We have had a parishioner research and attempt to identify all enslaved people who attended or were associated with St. Mark's Church. We have created a memorial for this. However, we still have much room to grow. We have lost connections to community members and parishioners, at times, when there was disagreement, and those community members or parishioners did not feel they were heard. We continue to work on this through conversations.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev, Anne Sawyer	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2017-05	2022-05

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev, Allison Moore	Interim	2016-05	2017-04

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Winnie Varghese	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2009-03	2016-05

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
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Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School
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Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
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Worshipping Community Web site: stmarksbowery.org

Media Links:

> <https://stmarksbowery.org/sermons-online>

Online References:

> https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCknxiXib_LZ6vBIV0slpDIA

> <https://www.instagram.com/stmarksbowery/>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

Diocesan Transition Minister

Current Warden/Board Chair

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader